

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application and the rejection of claims 1-5, 8-13, 16-19, 21-23, 26 and 27 are respectfully requested. Applicants have attempted to address every objection and ground for rejection in the Office Action dated February 3, 2005 (Paper No. 20050106) and believe the application is now in condition for allowance. The claims have been amended to more clearly describe the present invention.

Applicants acknowledge the allowance of claims 14 and 15, and the allowability of claims 6, 7, 20, 24 and 25. Accordingly, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate features of canceled claims 4, 5 and 6, and claim 16 has been amended to incorporate features of canceled claim 25.

Claims 6 and 20 are objected to due to the informality of "the user" should be "a user". The claim language has been changed where necessary. Accordingly, the objection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 2, 3, 12, 13, 17, 26 and 27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 as being indefinite. Claims 2 and 17 have been canceled, rendering those rejections moot. Claim 3 is rejected as to scope. As amended, the at least one clipper has been added, so claim 3 recites, among other things, a combination of a clipper holding apparatus and at least one clipper. In claims 12 and 26, antecedent basis issue has been resolved for "three hooks" and "first wall". Claim 13 has been amended to recite, among other things, "each said at least one hook" to

properly track the language of claim 11. Accordingly, the rejection based on Section 112 is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1 and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Currier (US 3,981,471). In view of the incorporation of features of canceled claims 4-6 into claim 1 and its indication of allowability, the rejection based on Currier is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1-5, 8-11, 16-19 and 21-23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Bestler (US 1,788,009). In view of the incorporation of features of canceled claims 4-6 into claim 1, and claim 25 into claim 16, and the indication of allowability, the rejection based on Bestler is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1, 11 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Asaro (US 5,014,948). In view of the incorporation of features of canceled claims 4-6 into claim 1, and the indication of allowability, the rejection based on Asaro is respectfully traversed.

Claim 13 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious in view of a combination of Asaro and Rioux, Jr. (US 5,014,948). In view of the incorporation of features of canceled claims 4-6 into claim 1, and the indication of allowability, the rejection based on a combination of Asaro and Rioux, Jr. is respectfully traversed.

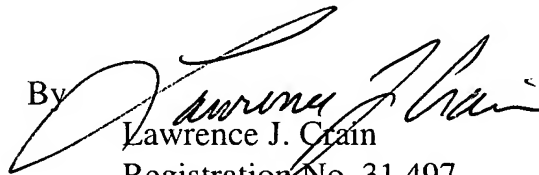
Applicants submit that in view of the above-identified amendments and remarks, the claims in their present form are patentably distinct over the art of record.

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Allowance of the rejected claims is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner discover there are remaining issues which may be resolved by a telephone interview, she is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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